IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Baoquan Chen et al. Art Unit : 1713
Serial No. : 10/714,356 Examiner : Duc Truong
Filed : November 14, 2003
Title : PROCESS FOR PREPARING POLY(ARYLENE ETHERS) WITH PENDANT CROSSLINKABLE GROUPS

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF MAY 4, 2005

In reply to the Office Action of May 4, 2005, Applicants submit the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending, and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Lau et al., U.S. 6,313,185 ("Lau"). Applicants request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection for the following reasons.

Lau describes nanoporous materials prepared from polymers having crosslinkable groups (e.g., acetylene groups) incorporated in the backbone of the polymer. Lau defines the "backbone" as "a contiguous chain of atoms or moieties forming a polymeric strand [that] are covalently bound such that removal of any of the atoms or moiety would result in interruption of the chain" (col. 5, lines 8-11), and states that "[r]eactive groups are contemplated to be positioned in any part of the backbone, including the termini" (col. 6, lines 2-3). It is these reactive groups incorporated in the backbone that effect crosslinking.

The presence of crosslinkable groups in the backbone of the polymer, as opposed to a pendant group attached to the backbone, is a critical feature of the polymers described in the Lau

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

August 1, 2005
Date of Deposit

Judith A. Witzel
Signature

Judith A. Witzel
Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate